

Coastal Hazards and Washington's Climate Change Response Strategy



Preparing for Climate Change Impacts in Washington

2008: Preparation and Adaptation Work Groups (Executive Order 07-02)

2009: The Washington Climate Change Impacts Assessment (HB 1303, 2007)

2012: Washington State's Integrated Climate Response Strategy (SB 5560, 2009)

Leading the Way:

Preparing for the Impacts of Climate Change in Washington

Recommendations of the Preparation and Adaptation Working Groups



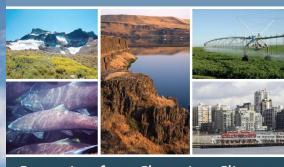


Evaluating Washington's Future in a Changing Climate

Executive Summary



A report by The Climate Impacts Group University of Washington June 2009



Preparing for a Changing Climate
Washington State's Integrated Climate Response Strategy



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Key Priorities



- Protect people, communities, and natural systems
 - Protect vulnerable communities from heat, diseases and injuries
 - Reduce risks of damage to coastlines, buildings, and infrastructure
 - Safeguard fish, wildlife, habitats, and ecosystems
 - Improve water management
 - Reduce risk of fires, pests and diseases to agriculture and forestry
- Support the efforts of local governments and communities



Risks to Coastal Areas

- More frequent and severe coastal flooding, increased erosion, and greater levels of storm damage along developed shorelines
- Increased risk of damage to property
- Ports, harbors and low-lying transportation networks will face increased risk of damage and disruptions
- Low-lying agricultural areas could be adversely affected by salt water inundation, dikes and levees will be threatened, and drainage will become more difficult
- Beaches and nearshore areas could shift inland or be lost



Strategies for Coastal Areas



- Guide future development away from vulnerable areas
- Enhance emergency preparedness and response
- Accelerate efforts to protect and restore nearshore habitat and natural processes
- Protect vulnerable infrastructure by considering risks in planning, funding, designing, and constructing infrastructure
- Build local capacity by providing information, tools and guidance



Addressing Climate Change

- Use existing state, local and federal laws to reduce risks of climate change:
 - GMA, SMA, CZMA, Watershed Planning Act, SEPA, Floodplain Management Act, Clean Water Act ...

How?

- ➤ Is the policy, program, or investment sensitive to current and future changes in climate, such as increased temperature, reduced snow pack, increased precipitation, and severe and frequent storms?
- What is the level of risk and vulnerability to climate impacts?
- Will climate impacts alter the effectiveness of the existing plan, policy, program, or project?
- Are adjustment or modifications needed to account for climate impacts and to help achieve the intended objectives?
- Develop a plan for near-term and long-term actions to implement the response strategy



Current Initiatives



- WSDOT pilot vulnerability assessment (Nov. 2011)
- DFW climate adaptation handbook and pilot projects (fall 2012 – 2013)
- DNR climate adaptation plan (Dec. 2012)
- King tide photo initiative (Dec-Jan 2012)
- Ecology updating clearinghouse, inundation maps and developing sea level rise guidebook (spring 2013)
- West coast collaboration
 - BC-WA MOU
 - BC, CA, OR, and WA Roundtable on Climate-Smart Infrastructure (Nov. 2012)
 - West Coast Governor's Alliance on Ocean Health
- Regional science partnerships
- Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification Report (Nov. 2012)



Questions?

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